

Serial No.: 09/750,601
Examiner: Robert C. Scheibel

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0011] In another aspect, the present invention is directed to a method for processing QoS parametric information in a network element operable in an IP network, wherein the network element includes at least one terminating line card operable as an ingress card supporting an incoming communications link, at least one terminating line card operable as an egress card supporting an outgoing communications link and a switch fabric disposed between the ingress and egress cards for supporting a plurality of VIEPs therebetween. Upon receiving incoming information packets on the incoming link of the network element, a determination is made in an ingress portion a network processor system disposed on the ingress card whether the incoming information packets pertain ~~pertains~~ to an IP-based service.' Responsive to the determining step, the incoming information packets are forwarded to an egress portion of the network processor system via the switch fabric. The packets are monitored for conformance with respect to the reserved VIEP resources to the destination TLK (i.e., egress card). The processed information packets are transmitted to the egress card via a select VIEP for routing the processed information on a target outgoing link to a neighbor in the network. The egress portion preferably includes an embedded processor operable to perform a plurality of IP-based QoS (IPQoS) monitoring operations and for processing the incoming information into processed information.